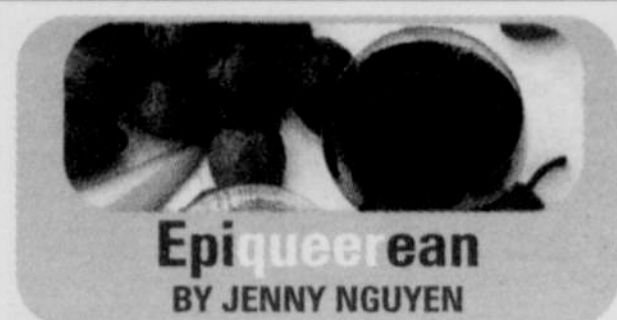




Mobile Manna

Manna, or food that miraculously appears, is my take on cart restaurants. You're weary from a long day, dragging your feet along the street as your stomach pounds with hunger. The thought of sitting down and feigning decency at a sit-down place is almost too much to bear. At last, you stumble upon a box emanating a sweet, alluring aroma. This is no mirage. Minutes later, precious food is in your grasp followed by the tranquilizing grip of the food coma. All this can be yours for less than 5 bucks. Oh, let meals on wheels curb your need for feed.

Pbong's Thai Food • 2034 N. Killingsworth St.

Unlike most other carts, a young couple operate this one in their grandmother's front yard. A well-built wagon surrounded by Buddha castings makes for a serene pit stop on this busy residential corridor. The menu is small (five items), but everything is delicious. Pad Thai is as good as any, and the green curry chicken is better than most other "real" restaurants. Fresh salad rolls are chock full of herbs and sprouts; though the peanut sauce is not as spicy as I prefer, it was delicious nonetheless. The lime Thai iced tea is a must-have on those hot summer days. All in all, for a one-stop Thai fix open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays, Pbong's is just what the chakra ordered.

India Chaat House • Southwest 12th Avenue and Yamhill Street

Located in a Pay-to-Park lot, this Indian food landmark has been serving 100 percent vegetarian delights for years. Come between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. and drown yourself in the "Big, BIG, BIG five-course lunch special." Five dollars gets you five ever-changing menu items. The day I went I got *naan* (flatbread), *dal waar* (spiced lentils), vegetable *samosa* (fried potato dumpling), basmati rice and *waatar* (stewed potatoes). Cue curry overload. Oh, but it's so worth it. Tame your tummy with yummy chai and stave off hunger till tomorrow.

Snow White House Crepes • Southwest Ninth Avenue and Yamhill Street

This cart bears a striking resemblance to a Disney-induced nightmare I had as a child. Streaked with Snow White-like characters and flecking paint, I thought "creep," not "crepe." But looks can deceive, as the menu kindles memories of savory crepes in Paris with cheese, ham and spinach. Even sweet mainstays make appearances: Nutella, bananas and fresh strawberries speckle the menu along with more childlike concoctions of pizza-pocket crepes and the Snow White Hot Dog crepe, which is without a doubt as weird as it sounds. Based on surprise alone, Snow White is one memorable, mobile manna. **10**

JENNY NGUYEN would love your feedback. Write her at jenny0080@hotmail.com.



Northwest Portland's favorite Thai restaurant.

730 NW 21st at Johnson
(1 block North of Cinema 21)
503-223-2182

Open weekdays for lunch and dinner, weekends all day

www.beauthai.net

